



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

REPRESENTATIVE ELAINE C. O'BRIEN
SIXTY-FIRST ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
ROOM 4022
HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591

CAPITOL: 860-240-8585
TOLL FREE: 1-800-842-8267
FAX: 860-240-0206
E-MAIL: Elaine.Obrien@cga.ct.gov

MEMBER
COMMERCE COMMITTEE
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Testimony by:

Rep. Elaine O'Brien, 61st District
East Granby, Suffield, Windsor

H.B. 5472: An Act Concerning Filing Deadlines
For Certain Property Tax Exemptions

March 16, 2012

Senator Daily, Representative Widlitz, Honorable members of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee:

For the record, I am State Representative Elaine O'Brien of the 61st district – representing East Granby, Suffield and Windsor.

I am testifying today in support of H.B. 5472, An Act Concerning Filing Deadlines For Certain Property Tax Exemptions.

This bill addresses the needs of six communities, one of which happens to be in my district, the town of Windsor.

As a long time member of municipal government I am well aware that mistakes can, and do happen. I am also acutely aware of how citizens, whether individual or corporate, can be led down the primrose path by acting on reasonable reliance and advice from the municipality. While not common, there are those rare instances when that reliance turns

out to be to their detriment. This is the just the circumstance that is now facing Stanadyne Corporation of Windsor.

Stanadyne Corporation, an international company, is a long standing member of the Windsor business community, employing approximately 275 people with a projected 2012 payroll of 18 million. It is exactly the type of business we are seeking to keep in Connecticut.

Connecticut law allows for a tax emption on manufacturing equipment but requires a timely filing of forms submitted to the local assessor. Based on past practices and their good faith reliance on the ability of the town staff to assist them, Stanadyne filed such forms as required but unfortunately they inadvertently missed a slight change which was not picked up by the previous assessor. With a change in personnel the mistake was discovered leading Stanadyne to the situation they now face – an unexpected tax and penalty liability for equipment which is by law, tax exempt.

I urge you to pass H.B. 5472 and rectify the situation. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Elaine O'Brien". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Elaine O'Brien